

Wm Lloyd Garrison & William Ellery Channing.

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Boston, Jan. 20, 1834.

Rev. and dear Sir:

I have taken the liberty to send you a few anti-slavery publications, the perusal of which, by you, I shall esteem a noble recompense. Let me invite your attention particularly to the Lectures of the Rev. Mr Phelps, which cover the whole ground of controversy, and which I deem unanswerable.

Guilty as it is, there is yet hope for this nation. There are more than seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal. The slumber of half a century has been broken up, and henceforth there is to be no repose until the monster slavery be slain. The deaf begin to hear, and the blind to see. The weak are made valiant, and the timid strengthened through faith in the promises of Him who is pledged to "maintain the cause of the afflicted and the right of the poor." The noise of the conflict is already like the voice of many waters. Truth is going on from conquering to conquer. The mystery of iniquity, alias the American Colonization Society, ^[dis] is now stripped of its guise, and seen in its naked deformity. There is hope for the nation.

It is true, not many mighty have as yet been called to this sacred strife. Like every other great reform, it has been commenced by obscure and ignorant men. It is God's mode, commonly, to choose the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; because his foolishness is wiser than men, and his weakness stronger than men. In having entered early into this great cause, I arrogate not to myself any superior wisdom or goodness. Some providential circumstances turned my

attention to it; and humble as I was, I feared my God too much, and hated the base plunderers of my species too cordially, and pitied the poor bleeding slaves too sincerely, to shrink even single-handed from a conflict with the enemies of justice and humanity. I then told the American slaveholders that they should hear me, of me, and from me, in a tone and with a frequency that should make them tremble — not that I was the enemy of their happiness or safety, but that I detested their crimes. How faithful I have been in the performance of my pledge, a quickened, an astonished, and a repenting nation may testify. Ridiculed, reviled, threatened, persecuted and imprisoned, still God has wonderfully blessed my humble labors. I give him all the glory — I sink myself into nothingness.

In a cause like this, there are two things to be remembered — 1st, that a tremendous responsibility rests upon him who perverts his influence; and 2nd, that an equally fearful responsibility rests upon him who withholds his influence. Why should a Christian, however distinguished, wait for the movements of a concurrent populace, before he espouse the side of the outraged and guiltless slaves? That which claims the sympathy and attention of Jehovah of hosts, is not beneath the dignity of his creatures. That which has elicited the best efforts of a Wilberforce, a Clarkson, a Pitt, a Fox, a Brougham, and a Buxton, is neither trivial nor despicable.

I thought of beseeching you, in this letter, to exert your victorious influence for the deliverance of this country from impending ruin. But if the slaughter of two millions of victims who have gone down to the ⁽ⁱⁿ⁾ graves with their chains around them; if the cries of more than that number of tortured slaves now living;



if a soil red with innocent blood; if a desecrated Sabbath; if a vast system of adultery, and pollution, and robbery; if perpetuated ignorance and legalized barbarity; if the invasion of the dearest rights of man, and a disruption of the holiest ties of life; — and, above all, if the clear and imperious injunctions of the most high God, fail to stimulate you to plead for the suffering and the dumb, it is scarcely possible that any appeal can succeed from

Yours, most affectionately and respectfully,
Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

Rev. Dr Channing.

